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General Assembly

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High-level Political Signing Conference for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto

(Palermo, Italy, 12-15 December 2000)

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Organizational matters:
   (a) Election of the President of the Conference;
   (b) Adoption of rules of procedure;
   (c) Election of other officers;
   (d) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work;
   (e) Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
      (i) Appointment of members of the Credentials Committee;
      (ii) Report of the Credentials Committee.
3. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto: follow-up activities and future work for their effective implementation.
4. Signature of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto.
5. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

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Annotations

1. Opening of the Conference

Pursuant to the acceptance by the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/129 of 17 December 1999, of the offer of the Government of Italy to host a high-level political signing conference in Palermo for the purpose of signing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto, the High-level Political Signing Conference will be held in Palermo from 12 to 15 December 2000.

The Conference will be opened at the Teatro Massimo in Palermo on Tuesday, 12 December 2000, at 10 a.m.

2. Organizational matters

(a) Election of the President of the Conference

(c) Election of other officers

It is standard practice at United Nations conferences hosted by a Member State to elect a representative of that country as President of the Conference.

Given the fact that the Conference in Palermo represents the culmination of a process of negotiation carried out primarily by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, it is recommended that the bureau of the Conference be composed of the States constituting the bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee, which are as follows: Chairman: Italy; Vice-Chairmen: Ecuador, France, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, Poland, Slovakia and Tunisia; and Rapporteur: South Africa.

Recommendation 1. It is recommended that the bureau of the Conference be composed of the States constituting the bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

(b) Adoption of rules of procedure

In the absence of special rules of procedure for the Conference, it is recommended that the rules of procedure of the General Assembly apply mutatis mutandis with any adjustments to be indicated.

Recommendation 2. In the absence of special rules of procedure for the Conference, it is recommended that the rules of procedure of the General Assembly apply mutatis mutandis with any adjustments to be indicated.

(d) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

In its resolution 54/129, the General Assembly requested the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Secretariat to work with the Government of Italy, in consultation with Member States, to propose the agenda for and the organization of the Conference. The provisional agenda for the Conference and the

proposed organization of work were finalized following an open-ended consultation on the Conference with representatives of Member States held in Vienna on 27 September 2000.

The first plenary meeting of the Conference will be devoted to the opening ceremony.

At the second plenary meeting, the Conference will consider organizational matters, such as the adoption of rules of procedure and the election of officers. From the second to final plenary meetings, on 12 to 15 December 2000, the high-level representatives will deliver their statements to the Conference. The final plenary meeting will be held in the afternoon of 15 December 2000.

The proposed organization of work is contained in the annex to the present document.

Recommendation 3. It is recommended that the Conference approve the draft provisional agenda and organization of work.

(e) Credentials of representatives to the Conference

(i) *Appointment of members of the Credentials Committee*

(ii) *Report of the Credentials Committee*

The credentials of representatives and the names of members of each delegation participating in the Conference shall be submitted either to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna not less than one week before the opening of the Conference (1 December 2000) or to the Secretary of the Conference in Palermo between 9 and 11 December 2000.[1] The credentials shall be issued either by the head of State or Government or by the minister for foreign affairs.

It is recommended that a Credentials Committee of nine members be appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President. Its membership should be the same as that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session as far as possible.

The Credentials Committee shall itself elect from among the representatives of participating States a Chairman and such other officers as it considers necessary. The Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives participating in the Conference and report thereon to the Conference.

Recommendation 4. It is recommended that the Conference appoint a Credentials Committee, composed of nine members, on the proposal of the President. Its membership should be the same as that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session as far as possible. The Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report thereon to the Conference.

[1] Taking into account the limited amount of space available in the Palazzo di Giustizia in Palermo, it is suggested that each delegation should consist of a head of delegation and a limited number of representatives as well as of such advisers or experts as may be required by the delegation.

3. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto: follow-up activities and future work for their effective implementation

In its resolution 54/129, the General Assembly, in convening the High-level Political Signing Conference, indicated that the agenda for and the organization of the Conference should include opportunities for high-level delegates to discuss matters related to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto, in particular follow-up activities, for their effective implementation and future work. In view of that request, the high-level representatives are invited to include in their statements proposals for follow-up activities and future work envisaged for the effective implementation of the Convention and the protocols thereto.

4. Signature of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto

Heads of State or Government, ministers for foreign affairs indicating their readiness to sign the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and any of the protocols thereto and other officials with full powers will be invited by the depositary to sign the Convention and the protocols thereto, as appropriate. Upon presentation and acceptance of the full powers, the official concerned will be informed thereof and arrangements will be made for the actual signing to take place.

Heads of State or Government and ministers for foreign affairs are recognized as authorized to sign the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto without having to present full powers. Any other official wishing to sign must first present full powers, issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State concerned, naming the official and the Convention and any protocol thereto to be signed and duly authorizing the official to sign the instrument. The full powers for the signature of the Convention in Palermo shall be submitted to the Legal Officer representing the depositary at the Conference, who will be available from 9 December 2000 until the closure of the Conference.

5. Adoption of the report of the Conference

The report to be adopted in Palermo will reflect the procedural aspects of the Conference and list the signatures to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto. A summary of statements made by heads of State or Government and other government representatives addressing the Conference will be included in the final report to be issued in the official languages of the United Nations after the Conference.

Annex

Organization of work for the High-level Political Signing Conference for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto

(Palermo, Italy, 12-15 December 2000)

Day	*Plenary*	*Side event*
Tuesday, 12 December		
Morning	10-12 a.m. Teatro Massimo Opening of the Conference Heads of State or Government begin signature of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto	
Afternoon	3-6 p.m. Plenary session (Palazzo di Giustizia, Plenary Hall) Election of the President of the Conference Election of other officers Adoption of the agenda and organization of work Statements by Heads of State or Government and other government representatives Signature of the Convention and the protocols thereto (continued)	4-7 p.m. Symposium on the Rule of Law in the Global Village—Issues of Sovereignty and Universality (Palazzo dei Normanni)
Wednesday, 13 December		
Morning	10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Plenary session (Palazzo di Giustizia, Plenary Hall) Statements by Heads of State or Government and other government representatives (continued)	Symposium on the Rule of Law in the Global Village—Issues of Sovereignty and Universality (continued) (Palazzo dei Normanni) Seminar on Transnational Organized Crime and the Media (Palazzo dei Normanni)

Day	*Plenary*	*Side event*
	Signature of the Convention and the protocols thereto (continued)	Ancillary meeting: Prevention Strategies against Organized Crime: The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (organized by the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (ISPAC) and LIBERA, in cooperation with the Municipality of Palermo) (Cantieri Culturali alla Zisa)
Afternoon	3-6 p.m. Plenary session (Palazzo di Giustizia, Plenary Hall)	Symposium on the Rule of Law in the Global Village—Issues of Sovereignty and Universality (continued) (Palazzo dei Normanni)
	Statements by Heads of State or Government and other government representatives (continued)	Seminar on Transnational Organized Crime and the Media (conclusion) (Palazzo dei Normanni)
	Signature of the Convention and the protocols thereto (continued)	Ancillary meeting: Prevention Strategies against Organized Crime: The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (organized by ISPAC and LIBERA, in cooperation with the Municipality of Palermo) (conclusion) (Cantieri Culturali alla Zisa)
Thursday, 14 December		
Morning	10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Plenary session (Palazzo di Giustizia, Plenary Hall)	Symposium on the Rule of Law in the Global Village—Issues of Sovereignty and Universality (conclusion) (Palazzo dei Normanni)
	Statements by Heads of State or Government and other government representatives (continued)	Forum for Global Action against Trafficking in Persons (Palazzo Biscari, Catania)
	Signature of the Convention and the protocols thereto (continued)	Symposium on the Role of Civil Society in Countering Organized Crime (organized by the Municipality of Palermo and the Sicilian Renaissance Institute) (Cantieri Culturali alla Zisa)
Afternoon	3-6 p.m. Plenary session (Palazzo di Giustizia, Plenary Hall)	Forum for Global Action against Trafficking in Persons (conclusion) (Palazzo Biscari, Catania)

Day	*Plenary*	*Side event*
	Statements by Heads of State or Government and other government representatives (continued)	Symposium on the Role of Civil Society in Countering Organized Crime (organized by the Municipality of Palermo and the Sicilian Renaissance Institute) (conclusion) (Cantieri Culturali alla Zisa)
	Signature of the Convention and the protocols thereto (continued)	
Friday, 15 December		
Morning	10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Plenary session (Palazzo di Giustizia, Plenary Hall)	
	Statements by Heads of State or Government and other government representatives (continued)	
	Signature of the Convention and the protocols thereto (continued)	
Afternoon	3-6 p.m. Plenary session and closing ceremony (Palazzo di Giustizia, Plenary Hall)	
	Statements by Heads of State or Government and other government representatives (conclusion)	
	Signature of the Convention and the protocols thereto (conclusion)	
	Closure of the Conference	